Secularism in India

2542. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Prime Minister met Pop John Paul II and reiterated that India is committed to secularism; and

(b) if so, Government's views on this and the extent to which it would go to protect the minorities from fundamentalists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In accordance with the secular ideals enshrined in the Constitution of India, the Government is committed to safeguarding the interests of minorities, and to deal firmly with the perpetrators of violence against them.

ISI Activities in Tamil Nadu

2543. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken by Government to prevent entry of ISI activists into India especially to Tamil Nadu; and

(b) how many ISI activists have been held so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) To neutralise activities of ISI agents, Government have adopted a well coordinated and multi-pronged approach which includes strengthening the border management, gearing up of intelligence machinery, well coordinated intelligence based action against ISI agents and militants sponsored by them, setting up of outposts of security forces and modernisation and upgradation of police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system etc. Steps taken in this regard have resulted in detection/neutralisation of various Pak ISI backed modules.